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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,191	07/11/2003	Karl F. Popp	24948	3528
20529	7590	08/13/2007	EXAMINER	
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314			CHANNAVAJJALA, LAKSHMI SARADA	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1615				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/617,191	POPP, KARL F.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lakshmi S. Channavajjala	1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 26-31 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 26-31 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt of amendment and response dated 6-6-07 is acknowledged.

Claims 26-31 are pending in the instant application.

Instant claims 1-25 and 32-37 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,117,843 to Baroody et al.

Instant claims are directed to a process of preparing the composition comprising forming a benzoyl peroxide intermediate dispersion at 15-25 degrees C having 5.9% to 7.2% benzoyl peroxide with a viscosity of 60,000 to 250,000, forming clindamycin intermediate solution having 0.5% to 1.5% clindamycin in the final product and mixing the two to yield a mixture having a final pH of 4.5 to 5.0 and wherein the final viscosity of the mixtures is lower than that of benzoyl peroxide and is between 50,000 to 200,000; and the mixture is stable for the treatment period. .

Baroody discloses a composition comprising clindamycin, benzoyl peroxide and a carrier, for the treatment of acne, which is stable for several months (col. 2, L 3-66).

Baroody discloses incorporating clindamycin salt that is compatible with the gelling agent and a dispersion of finely divided benzoyl peroxide, wherein the dispersion and clindamycin is combined with a carrier, and further with a gelling agent such as

Carbopol (col. 4, L 1-43). Table 1 of Baroody shows final composition, which contains the claimed amounts of benzoyl peroxide and clindamycin, and has a pH of 4.5-5.5, which includes the pH of the instant claims. For claimed stability (claims 7-8), Baroody shows that the composition is stable over a long period of time (table 7 and 8). With respect to the viscosity, Baroody discloses that initial viscosity of benzoyl peroxide in the range of 50,000 to 90,000 and a final viscosity in the range of 70,000 to 120,000.

Baroody does not teach the purity of benzoyl peroxide, viscosity of benzoyl peroxide, the percentage degradation of clindamycin or the amounts of benzoyl peroxide and clindamycin in the claimed standard deviation. However, Baroody also recognize the same factors i.e., pH, viscosity etc., that affect the stability (result-affective variables) of the composition and therefore it would have been obvious for one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention was made to employ pure active compounds and optimize the general conditions such as viscosity, amounts of active agents with an expectation to achieve a composition that stable for long periods of time because the teachings of Baroody are also directed to preparing a storage stable composition comprising benzoyl peroxide and clindamycin and employed for the same purpose similar to the instant invention i.e., treatment of acne or other skin related conditions that need require benzoyl peroxide and clindamycin combination. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6-6-07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' arguments regarding the anticipation rejection have not been addressed because the rejection is no longer maintained.

Applicants' arguments regarding the obviousness are presented on pages 7-9 of the response. It is argued as follows:

The Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against the presently rejected claims. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the PTO must satisfy three requirements. First, as the U.S. Supreme Court very recently held in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. et al., Slip Opinion No. 04-1350, 550 U. S. (April 30, 2007), "a court must ask whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functionsit [may] be necessary for a court to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issueit can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does.., because inventions in most, if not all, instances rely upon building blocks long since uncovered, and claimed

discoveries almost of necessity will be combinations of what, in some sense, is already known." (KSR, *supra*, slip opinion at 13-15.) Second, the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Lastly, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494,496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

It is argued that the Baroody reference does not teach, disclose, or render obvious any of the presently pending claims because it fails to disclose the requirement of the presently pending claims that the claimed process results in a final composition having a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the intermediate benzoyl peroxide dispersion. Instead, Baroody actively teaches the exact opposite, requiring the final composition to have a viscosity *higher* than the benzoyl peroxide intermediate composition. This would motivate one skilled in the art who wishes to invent a storage-stable clindamycin topical composition, to avoid taking the opposite relative viscosity between the benzoyl peroxide and the final composition as in the presently pending claims.

Applicants' arguments are not persuasive because as rightly pointed out, in the recent *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. et al.*, Slip Opinion No. 04-1350, 550 U. S. __, (April 30, 2007), it has been stated that a teaching, suggestion or motivation is required to support a finding of obviousness. The nature of the problem in the instant case as well as the teaching of Baroody is the same, storage and long-term stability of a

composition comprising (same components) benzoyl peroxide and clindamycin. Under the TSM test, according to the above ruling, the teaching or suggestion or motivation may be found in the prior art, nature of the problem or the knowledge of one of an ordinary skill in the art. In this case, Baroody provides the teaching that the composition containing the above active agents are limited by storage stability and also suggests several factors such as pH, viscosity, gelling agent contribute to the stability (col. 3, L 14-36, table 3). In the same section, Baroody describes mixing a suspension of benzoyl peroxide with a solution of clindamycin (which meets the process steps a-c of instant claims) and also state that the viscosity may be relatively low and high, suggesting that it may be varied. Thus, Baroody is directed to solving the same problem (nature of problem) as that of instant.

It is argued that there is no reason for one skilled in the art to take the presently claimed process to prepare the composition of clindamycin and benzoyl peroxide, where the viscosity of the final composition is relatively lower than that of the benzoyl peroxide, which is the exact opposite of the teachings in the Baroody reference. In addition, applicants submit that the teachings of the Baroody reference are not such general conditions for the presently pending claims as recited in In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955), but instead are the opposite conditions teaching away from the presently pending claims. Accordingly, it is not appropriate for the Examiner to recite In re Aller to negate the nonobviousness of the presently pending claims 26-31. As such, the Baroody reference does not teach, disclose, or render obvious the presently pending claims 26-31. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request

the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of presently pending claims 26-31.

In response, a person of ordinary skill in the art reading Baroody would readily recognize that maintaining stability of the composition is important and in order to do so, factors such as pH, viscosity, amounts of gelling agent etc., should be varied. While Baroody does not teach the final viscosity is lower than initial viscosity, Baroody teaches mixing the same components (a benzoyl peroxide suspension reads on instant dispersion of step a of claim 26) with a clindamycin solution (step b of claim 26). In addition, instant claims generally state that the viscosity is lower without actually stating by how much the viscosity is lower. The claims also fail to recite the period of stability so as to distinguish from that of Baroody. In light of the teachings of Baroody, the actual application of the technique to stabilize the composition is not beyond the skill of an ordinary person, which according to the above KSR ruling would have been obvious. The reasonable expectation in this case that varying the pH and gelling agents and viscosity results in variable stability of the composition.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lakshmi S. Channavajjala whose telephone number is 571-272-0591. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.00 AM -4.00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on 571-272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AU 1615
August 7, 2007



LAKSHMI S. CHANNAVAJJALA
PRIMARY EXAMINER